**Henry Ford**

Henry Ford was an American hero. He was a self-taught machinist and engineer whom many say changed America forever. In 1903, he founded the Ford Motor Company, a small company that manufactured automobiles.

After examining scientific management theories and studying the philosophy of efficient production as presented by Fredrick Winslow Taylor, Ford changed automobile manufacturing practices. Taylor was an efficient expert who developed a new concept of labor that reduced the requirement for human expertise in an efficient manufacturing environment. In 1906, Ford borrowed Taylor’s ideas and used them to change how his organization manufactured automobiles. Ford was the father of mass production techniques – the assemble line in which significantly changed the way people worked; the automobile it manufactured changed the way people traveled.

Ford’s implementation of the assembly line made the automobile affordable to the average American. His Model T, otherwise known as the Tin Lizzie, became the foremost mass produced product in the world. Mass production became the unifying theme for American industry in the early 1900’s and beyond.